

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 19, 2012

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We are writing to support approval of Class A status for WTHC-CD 42 (The Atlanta Channel), which serves as the Official Visitor Information Television Station of the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau. Class A status was originally denied The Atlanta Channel due to a minor clerical omission in the application. The station immediately filed an appeal, and the appeal has been on record since 2000.

We are asking that the appeal be granted and that Class A status be awarded to The Atlanta Channel. We believe the channel is a prime example of Class A Low Power Television, broadcasting 100% local programming in High Definition and serving the community for 19 years.

In 1993, The Atlanta Channel came to Atlanta at the behest of local leaders, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Atlanta Committee on the Olympic Games, and the Georgia Hospitality and Travel Association, in preparation for the 1996 Centennial Summer Olympic Games. Former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young was instrumental in bringing the station to life and endorsed the appointment of The Atlanta Channel as the Official Visitor Information Station for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and the Olympic Village.

In July 2004, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau announced its partnership with The Atlanta Channel as part of the citywide crisis communication plan, allowing authorities to reach visitors with critical information in the case of an emergency. In the event of a crisis or major situation affecting visitors, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau will send official notices and advisories to The Atlanta Channel for continuous broadcast to visitors. In December 2010, The Atlanta Channel was formally announced as the Official Visitor Information Station of the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau.

As you may know, Atlanta is the 8th largest designated media area in America. The city welcomes over 34 million visitors every year; 18.4 million of whom stay overnight. Last year, Metro Atlanta registered 18 million hotel/motel room nights, the 7th highest in the U.S. The Atlanta Channel reaches over 32,000 hotel rooms in the Metro area.


Travel, trade, and tourism are the lifeblood of Atlanta's economy, and essential elements of Georgia's recovering economy. The Atlanta Channel provides the essential communications link necessary to meet both the economic and public safety goals of the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau and the City of Atlanta.

We therefore request FCC approval of Class A status to WTHC-CD 42, The Atlanta Channel. This designation is critical to ensure continued communication with visitors, continued support for emergency communication plans, and continued service to the community through its unique expertise and essential broadcasting capabilities.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss



U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

July 26, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable John Isakson
United States Senate
120 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Isakson:

Thank you for your recent letter on the pending Application for Review filed by the Atlanta Channel regarding its Class A certification. I appreciate the concerns raised by you and your colleagues.

As promised to Congressman Gingrey during the recent FCC oversight hearing in the Energy and Commerce Communications and Technology Subcommittee, I have directed the Media Bureau to provide its recommendation to the full Commission as soon as it can in order to resolve this matter by this end of the year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "JG", is written over the name Julius Genachowski.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

July 26, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

Thank you for your recent letter on the pending Application for Review filed by the Atlanta Channel regarding its Class A certification. I appreciate the concerns raised by you and your colleagues.

As promised to Congressman Gingrey during the recent FCC oversight hearing in the Energy and Commerce Communications and Technology Subcommittee, I have directed the Media Bureau to provide its recommendation to the full Commission as soon as it can in order to resolve this matter by this end of the year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small dot.

Julius Genachowski